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CODIB-D-113/4.3  
15 August 1966

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD  
COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTATION

Progress Report on Implementation of  
President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board  
Recommendation No. 2 of 15 June 1965

Attached memorandum for USIB, subject as above, has been drafted in response to the discussion at the CODIB meeting on 29 July 1966. It is proposed that this memorandum be forwarded to USIB instead of the COINS Implementation Plan with a CODIB cover comment. This item will be on the Agenda for discussion at the CODIB meeting on 29 August 1966.

  
Acting Secretary

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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD  
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Progress Report on Implementation of the President's  
Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board Recommendation  
No. 2 of 15 June 1965

REFERENCES: a. Mr. Clifford's Memorandum of 15 June 1965 for  
the President  
b. Mr. Bundy's Memorandum of 15 July 1965 for the  
Director of Central Intelligence  
c. Director of Central Intelligence Memorandum of  
2 October 1965 for the Special Assistant to the  
President, National Security Affairs, and the  
Chairman, President's Foreign Intelligence Ad-  
visory Board

1. Background. This is a report of progress made toward  
implementing the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board  
(PFIAB) Recommendation No. 2, regarding expansion of the National  
Security Agency's Technical Information Processing System (TIPS)  
to include a community experiment in interagency information hand-  
ling. The report is based on accomplishments to date of the CODIB  
Working Group especially established to address the problems of  
conducting the Community On-Line Intelligence System (COINS) experi-  
ment.

2. Program Status.

a. Overall

(1) The COINS experiment is progressing satisfactorily  
through planning and the early stages of implementation. The CODIB  
Working Group on COINS is performing effectively in developing the

Group I  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification.

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overall framework for the experiment, and in coordinating the efforts of several sub-groups concerned with specific segments of the experiment such as communications linkages and procedures, selection of data files, and system evaluation planning. Major problems remain to be solved in the areas of data files and COINS evaluation planning. It appears now that the COINS network of computer systems and communications linkages can be achieved by the end of 1966, and that substantive portions of the experiment can be initiated by that time.

(2) The COINS Working Group has drafted an implementation plan describing the details of the initial phases of the COINS experiment (a schematic diagram of the COINS network is attached). The drafting of the system evaluation, management, and resources portions of the implementation plan is underway.

b. Hardware

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c. Software

The major portion of the computer software required

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for the COINS experiment still has to be produced. Many of the basic agreements and identifications of specific software items to be produced have already been made. For example, NSA and NPIC have already agreed on similar interrogation procedures and formats; DIA and State will use the NSA/NPIC interrogation language and format thus making it unnecessary for DIA to write a translate program.

d. Data Files

(1) NSA has made the following files available for the COINS experiment:

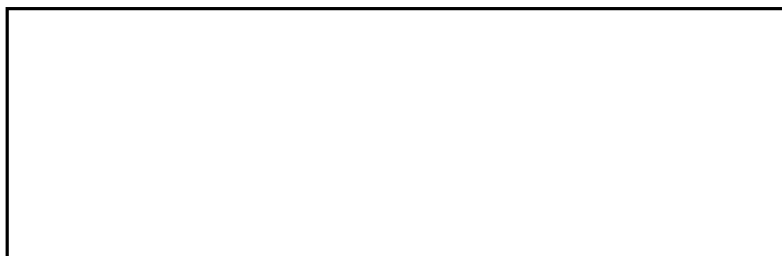


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(2) NPIC has nominated its Target Brief File (a restricted sub-set of the total file) for use in COINS.

(3) CIA Computer Center has not yet nominated any of its files for the COINS experiment.

(4) DIA has made available all the files in the Intelligence Support and Indications Center (ISIC):



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e. Evaluation

The COINS Working Group has developed preliminary plans for a technical evaluation of the COINS experiment. These plans are aimed primarily at insuring that capabilities exist at the commencement of the experiment to collect the information that will be required for evaluation. These capabilities include computer programs by which each agency's computer system would maintain system logs showing the COINS load and activity within the agency. A separate program on the COINS communications switch computer would

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maintain continuous logs on the characteristics of traffic in the network including total number of messages sent per day, number of messages in each message category, number of messages per agency, time peak loads, and message queue lengths. (See paragraph 3 for further discussion).

f. Resources

3. Major Problem Areas.

a. Intelligence Data Files

(1) The selection of intelligence data files for the COINS experiment persists as a most difficult problem. The real difficulty is in selecting files which are readily available in machineable form and which, at the same time, have high utility to the analysts who will participate in the operational feasibility portions of the experiment. There is a shortage of files which satisfy both the availability and utility criteria. For example, in the biographic area recommended by the PFIAB, the majority of biographic files are not in machineable form. In order to get some of the best biographic materials into COINS, machineable files would have to be developed at considerable cost in time and manpower.

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(2) CODIB is acutely aware of the impact of this problem on COINS and is trying to find ways to insure that only high-value files are used in the experiment. Among the actions pending is an effort to have substantive analysts in each agency identify and describe what they consider to be useful files. From this point, attempts can be made to have the appropriate files made available for COINS use.

b. System Evaluation

(1) As in any experiment, evaluation is a crucial part of the COINS effort. The nature of COINS makes a dual type of evaluation mandatory. A technical evaluation must be conducted to determine whether the network and its individual hardware/software components have met technical specifications, security criteria, and accuracy requirements. An operational evaluation must be performed to determine whether the system is useful to the analyst and, if so, to what extent. The operational evaluation will be influenced by system technical performance as well as the utility of the information handled within the system.

(2) Both the technical and operational evaluations require the prior establishment of firm performance objectives and specifications to be used as the base against which to measure actual system performance. CODIB has commenced preparation of a list of COINS objectives together with an itemized break-out of both technical and operational performance specifications. Work is also being done on the development of evaluation techniques including the design of automatic methods of collecting performance data at each of the computer systems and the communications switch of the COINS network.

c. Management Implications

Because COINS is the first community exercise in interagency automated information handling and interchange, there are no available precedents on how to manage the COINS network. The Working Group on COINS is currently fulfilling technical system management. There is, however, a need for a more formal management structure, one that is empowered to exercise broader authority over the entire network and its impact on the overall functions of the community. CODIB is considering alternative means of providing this necessary management.

d. Resources Implications

Estimates made to date of the cost of implementing the first phase of COINS are necessarily gross and tentative.

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More detailed information on total system resource requirements is needed. CODIB has accordingly tasked the Working Group with developing a more comprehensive resources plan for the entire COINS experiment.

4. Activity Forecasts.

Following are the COINS tasks to be pursued during the next reporting period:

(a) Participants will proceed with the reconfiguration of hardware, the acquisition and installation of computer, communications and cryptographic equipment where appropriate, and the preparation of required items of COINS software.

(b) CODIB will continue its efforts to determine the criteria for selecting useful files for COINS and to identify and establish the availability of data files satisfying these criteria.

(c) CODIB, with support from the Working Group and participants in the COINS experiment, will expedite the preparation of COINS technical and operational objectives and specifications, and the drafting of a system evaluation plan.

(d) The COINS Working Group will prepare resources and management plans for the entire COINS experiment.

5. USIB Action.

The Committee on Documentation recommends that USIB note the above report of progress made in conducting the COINS experiment and approve the continuation of the effort to establish the COINS network by the end of 1966 as outlined herein.

[Redacted Signature]

Chairman

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Attachment:  
Diagram of COINS Network

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